accordance with Equation 5. Alternatively, the next x can be selected by again selecting a point that is half way between the last x (x_n) and the most recent x processed in the direction determined by the sign of the adjustment value a. This alternative process will not however move as quickly to the optimal next segment point. The process then continues as described above computing the greatest error associated with the next approximation segment. The iterative process described moves very quickly to the optimal next x (segment point) that has maximum error value that is exactly at the tolerance value. This is true because of how the error calculated is used to determine the next x point. --

A2 cont

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment brings the specification into agreement with the figures as filed. Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment. Finally, revised, formal figures are attached for the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicant asks that all claims be examined. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/1/02

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the specification:

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11 has been amended as follows:

The three values that are computed are, maximum vertical error for point x_n (304), [an adjustment value] a speed factor *a* (306) and a next "*x*" value (x_{n+1}) (308). The adjustment value *a* is equal to the error that was calculated for a given iteration minus the tolerance *T* divided by the derivative *d* where:

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21 has been amended as follows:

Thereafter, a check is made to determine if the absolute value of the speed factor *a* is greater than a fixed [value] number (310). In one implementation, the fixed [value] number is a small non-negative number, such as 0.0001. If the absolute value is greater, then a next *x* is selected (*n* is increased by 1 where x_{n+1} is selected closer to S_i) (312) and the process returns to step 304. Otherwise, the point (x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}^e) is recorded as the next segment point (314) and S_i (the prior segment point) is set as $x_n + 1$. In one implementation, the next "*x*" (x_{n+1}) is selected in accordance with Equation 5. Alternatively, the next *x* can be selected by again selecting a point that is half way between the last *x* (x_n) and the most recent *x* processed in the direction determined by the sign of the adjustment value *a*. This alternative process will not however move as quickly to the optimal next segment point. The process then continues as described above computing the greatest error associated with the next approximation segment. The iterative process described moves very quickly to the optimal next *x* (segment point) that has maximum error value that is exactly at the tolerance value. This is true because of how the error calculated is used to determine the next *x* point.